WebBuyer

SITE REVIEWS FOR ONLINE SHOPPING

BY KEVIN SAVETZ

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<Tech Shopping

aberdeeninc.com

Targeting savvy consumers, **Aberdeen** features extensive specs on a wide variety of peripherals and accessories. The site's catalog of motherboards spans nine major manufacturers and includes a side-by-side comparison tool.

accessmicro.com

Access Micro boasts tons of items ranging from broadband routers to complete desktop systems. The help desk and hardware guide provide aid to first-time visitors, and the clearance area offers returned items and old inventory for below wholesale prices.

allstarshop.com

The **Allstar Microelectronics** catalog of PC accessories includes graphics cards, motherboards, and peripherals. The selection in some categories is modest, but prices are reasonable, and you'll find an ample amount of information about each product.

a2zcables.com

The only thing that rivals the selection at **A2Z Cables** is the amount of technical information the site provides. You'll find diagrams of connectors, connectivity guides, and details about wiring standards.

batteriesdirect.com

Empower yourself! **Batteries Direct** sells batteries for laptops, camcorders, and portable phones, as well as AC adapters for portable computers. If the kids' toys are running on empty, check out the selection of rechargeable nickel-metal-hydride batteries in sizes ranging from AAA to D.

bestbuy.com

Best Buy sells computers and peripherals, home audio and video, photo gear, and small-office equipment. The selection in each department is impressive. The best part? You can have your gadget delivered, or pick it up at a nearby store.

blackbox.com

Get connected! Specializing in network products, **Black Box's** extensive catalog of storage, cabling, and surge-protection products—plus many other connectivity accessories—can be viewed online or off.

buy.com

Buy.com's vast million-product inventory includes computer hardware, software, electronics, video games, books, music, and DVDs. Shoppers will find informative pages that make choosing the right peripheral painless.

buycase.com

Banish the boring beige box forever! **Colorcase** offers more than 60 unusual computer cases, including translucent-plastic, aluminum, and mirrored. Choose a case with a Plexiglas insert for a look at the innards of your PC.

buydig.com

A site for shovels and trowels? No, **BuyDig.Com** offers digital tools and gadgets including digital cameras, fax machines, PDAs, DVD players, and video-capture devices.

www.buyuptime.com

BuyUptime.com's protection and security inventory includes uninterruptible power supplies and accessories, batteries, and power-distribution

APRIL

COMPUTER SHOPPER site OF THE month

tomshardware.com

Tom's Hardware Guide is an unparalleled resource for hardware news and reviews, making it a veritable paradise for the technically inclined. You could spend hours here just soaking up all the geeky goodness.

The heart of the site is the news area, which delivers thoughtful analysis about all aspects of the hardware world. From announcements of new chipsets to comparative motherboard reviews, the site doesn't coddle its readers. In addition, the Columns section goes beyond facts and figures with a hearty (and often humorous) dose of opinion about the tech scene.

The HowTo section serves up informative tutorials for the hard-core enthusiast, including topics such as creating a do-it-yourself RAID system or running Windows inside Linux. The Product Database offers recommendations, specs, and performance data for processors, graphics cards, motherboards, and hard drives. If you're looking to gain intelligence on a particular subject, check out Tom's Guides, comprehensive indexes of information in categories such as audio/video, CPUs, displays, and networking.

The site's message boards are extraordinarily busy, bustling with talk about hardware components, overclocking, peripherals, software, and consumer electronics. If you want to keep up with the latest buzz (and you will), subscribe to Tom's Hard News, a free weekly e-mail newsletter.

units. The selection ranges from simple surge protectors to industrial transformers.

www.cd-recordable.com

The U.S-owned and -based **CD-Recordable Factory Store** actually manufactures the discs it sells. This easy-to-navigate site stocks a massive variety of CD-R discs, including colorless and tinted media, plus disc-packaging and -storage accessories.

cdw.com

CDW offers an enormous array of hardware and software for business. Create side-by-side comparisons in many product categories, and search out dollar-saving deals on the rebates-and-coupons page.

circotech.com

If a beautiful PC case stops you in your tracks, visit **Circo Technology,** which offers a large selection of attractive and functional cases. For the maximum in upgradability, check out the roomy "cube" cases.

compgeeks.com

Revenge of the nerds, indeed! Shop the **Computer Geeks Discount Outlet** for new, discontinued, and refurbished computer gear. It's a trove for the do-it-yourselfer piecing together a desktop system. The site features low prices and complete specs on every product.

compusa.com

The well-organized **CompUSA** rounds out the usual selection of PC hardware, peripherals, and accessories with areas devoted to electronics and gadgets. The site's new Game Fixx arm specializes in PC and console games.

computerbath.com

As you might have guessed, **ComputerBath** specializes in computer-cleaning products. Put together a customized kit that includes brushes for dust removal, optical-drive cleaners, label removers, and other essential tools for cleaning your PC inside and out.

computers4sure.com

In the 19 well-stocked departments at **Computers-4Sure.com** you'll find a broad spectrum of products, including networking equipment, PDAs, and scanners. Bargain hunters can quickly sniff out deals on the Clearance pages.

computersurplusoutlet.com

You're just crazy enough to build your own desktop system, aren't you? Then you'll feel right at home at **Computer Surplus Outlet,** where you'll find closeouts, overstocks, refurbished equipment, and liquidation items. You might even stumble on an assembly-required Pentium system for less than $100.

crucial.com

One of the largest providers of memory upgrades on the Web, **Crucial Technology** offers free shipping on CompactFlash cards and RAM for 11,000 computer systems. The company backs its memory with a lifetime warranty.

c-source.com

The catalog at decade-old **CompSource** includes a full range of PC products—nearly 200,000 in all. The company promises same-day shipping, but watch out for the 15 percent fee on returns.

dalco.com

Dalco Electronics stocks everything from motherboards to monitors. If you're a bargain hunter, start with the specials found on the home page. You'll also find a helpful motherboard/CPU and memory configurator.

dartek.com

Dartek sells a remarkable selection of hardware, software, networking equipment, and office furniture. Well-designed features include printable spec sheets, customers' product ratings, a product-watch feature, and a frequent-buyers' club.

directron.com

Specializing in computer peripherals, **Directron.com** offers low prices on a wide variety of name-brand and OEM products. Most items include a 30-day guarantee, and any order earns you the right to pick through the Free Stuff bin. Savvy savers will appreciate the Clearance area, as well as frequent-customer and volume-purchasing discounts.

dirtcheapdrives.com

If you can store data on it, this site sells it. **Dirt Cheap Drives** offers hard drives, CD-ROM drives, DVD hardware, and drive arrays, with detailed technical information about each product. This decade-old company also stocks mounting kits, media, and accessories.

ecable.net

You probably had no idea that there were so many ways to hook technology together. **Ecable** sells all types of cables, from coax and Category 5 to fiber-optic, plus patch panels, telco blocks, and other datacom essentials.

ecost.com

The **eCost.com** catalog spans the full range of PC hardware and software, including ready-to-use

SITE REVIEWS

systems, peripherals, accessories, and applications. The Bargain Countdown will tempt you with time-limited deals.

enetfurniture.com

eNet Furniture's expansive selection consists of computer and office furniture from 60 manufacturers. The catalog includes printer stands, accessible furniture for disabled users, and multiperson workstations for computer labs.

etronics.com

There's something for everyone at **Etronics.com.** The catalog includes home-theater products, car electronics, home-office gizmos, plus digital and film cameras. The return policy is flexible: a 30-day guarantee with no restocking fees.

euclidcomputers.com

Euclid Computers stocks laptops from eight manufacturers, PDAs from seven, and a smattering of wireless accessories and GPS receivers. Use the filter tool to hone your laptop choice by CPU speed, screen size, and weight.

flexguard.com

Philadelphia Security Products will make sure your PC stays right where it belongs—on your desk. The site sells a variety of lock and cable kits to protect your notebook or desktop computer against thieves.

fwdepot.com

Catering to both Mac and PC users, **FireWire Depot** sells IEEE 1394 drives, cables, repeaters, and upgrade cards. You can buy an empty enclosure, then populate it with your own drive—online assembly instructions show you how.

googlegear.com

Targeting corporations and smaller businesses, **Googlegear** sells a tempting selection of PC systems, hardware, and software. Seek out savings in the Open Box Shop and the bargain-packed $1 Marketplace.

handspring.com

Get a **Handspring** PDA direct from the source. The site sells Visor handhelds, add-on modules, accessories, and software.

SITE REVIEWS

harddrive.com

Pack rat? **HardDrive.com** has your storage solution. Choosy shoppers will find extensive choices in IDE, SCSI, and IEEE 1394 (FireWire) drives, along with other peripherals. For fashion-forward computer users, a special section features black PC components, from cases to scanners.

hypermicro.com

Hyper Microsystems specializes in storage. The catalog includes CD-ROM and CD-RW drives, tape-backup drives, hard drives, and RAID adapters. Check the Hyper Bundles for ready-to-use RAID and CD-RW starter kits.

inkfarm.com

We're not sure what type of farm printer ink comes from, but we do know that **Inkfarm.com** sells ink and toner with flat-rate shipping. Go with "official" OEM ink, or opt to save big bucks with aftermarket ink that often costs about half the price. You'll find paper, backup tapes, and removable media, too.

www.ink4art.com

Sure, you'll find the usual selection of inkjet cartridges, but **Ink4Art** also sells distinctive goodies that will make your printer happy. Offerings include fluorescent ink cartridges, unusual paper, and project kits for printing on T-shirts and mouse pads.

insight.com

With more than 110,000 items for sale, **Insight** offers an impressive catalog of hardware and software. Customized sites are available for shoppers in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

jandr.com

Hardware, software, home-office products, and appliances abound at **J&R Computer World,** the New York City-based superstore famed for its selection and, ahem, "brusque" service. Avoid the attitude with this online version, which specializes in cameras, both digital and traditional film models.

www.jdr.com

JDR Microdevices sells PC hardware and accessories—a fair selection at reasonable prices. In the electronics section, tinkerers will find electronic components and kits, integrated circuits, and technical reference books.

lanblvd.com

Wrestling with your old router? Network card not working? **LanBlvd.com** specializes in networking products. You'll find hubs, routers, interface cards, and wireless stations, along with other essentials for your LAN.

www.mediastore.com

Burn, label, and store to your heart's desire with help from **MediaStore.** The site sells CD-R, CD-RW, DVD-R, and DVD-RW discs, as well as drives, software, labelers, and media-packaging material.

megahaus.com

MegaHaus' catalog of "everything high-tech" offers a full spectrum of products, from mice to monitors. The site specializes in storage, including hard drives, RAID solutions, and CD recorders.

memman.com

Desktop and laptop memory sold at **Memory Man** carries a lifetime warranty, and the site's reference guide offers RAM-configuration info for all brand-name computers.

memory4less.com

Memory4Less.com offers low prices on a wide variety of RAM. Don't know the memory requirements of your computer or digital camera? The site will clue you in.

microcenterorder.com

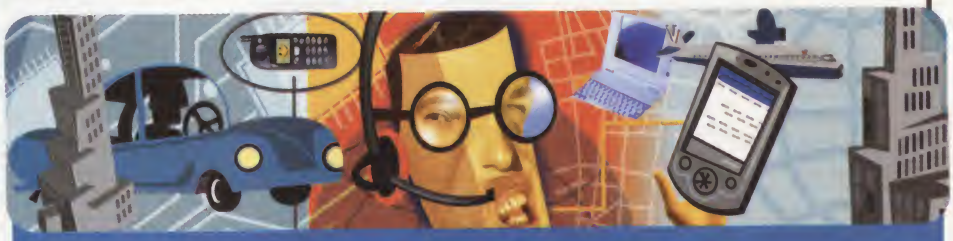
Micro Center Online offers new and refurbished desktops from Compaq, Apple, Hewlett-Packard, and PowerSpec. You'll also find a decent selection of peripherals. Rummage through the bargain bin for deals on closeouts, refurbished units, and overstocks.

motherboardexpress.com

Don't be overwhelmed by the array of more than 100 boards at **Motherboard Express.** The site's search engine will filter the choices by processor type, onboard controller, chipset, case type, or number of CPUs.

motherboards.com

In addition to a wide selection of motherboards with copious technical specs on each, **Motherboards.com** provides honest reviews from picky system shoppers like you. If you order a motherboard and CPU together, the company will configure and test them for you.



Mobile Gear

laptoptravel.com

If you tote a computer wherever you go, be sure make a stop at **Laptop Travel.** The site specializes in portable-computing and international-travel gear. The catalog includes services to keep you connected on the road, along with electrical adapters, modem converters, and security accessories. You'll also find news and nifty travel tips in the Information area.

www.mobile-mania.com

If you're crazy for on-the-go gear, you'll flip for **Mobilemania.com.** This site sells travel-size computers, printers, and fax machines. You'll also find PDAs, digital cameras, and all the mobile accessories you could ever need.

mobileplanet.com

MobilePlanet is home to a gaggle of high-tech tools and toys for mobile professionals. The selection includes notebooks, PDAs, wireless-communication products, portable printers, and tiny scanners. You can also stock up on software for your Palm- or Windows CE-based handheld.

mobilizenow.com

On the go? **MobilizeNow** can outfit you with the gadgets you need, including cellular gear, GPS receivers, portable radios, and PDA stuff. Tell the site what country you're headed for, and it will show a list of appropriate electrical adapters, phone adapters, and voltage converters.

neohand.com

Neohand specializes in Palm OS and Pocket PC software for business and leisure travelers. The selection includes titles such as Weissmann City Profiles, a destination guide; Global Advisor, business- and cultural-etiquette software; and DialerPro, which helps you make calls from one foreign country to another.

www.pdamart.com

PDA Mart offers a hefty online catalog including Palm, Pocket PC, and Windows CE PDAs, plus a host of other electronic organizers and data banks. Cases, add-on cards, wireless gear, and GPS accessories round out the selection.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BILL RIESER

SECTION CONTINUES ON PAGE 174

monitoroutlet.com

From inexpensive 14-inchers to elegant and pricey flat-panel LCDs, **Monitor Outlet** proffers a wide range of displays. The site sells units from 24 manufacturers, plus specialty monitors such as touch screens, wide-aspect-ratio units, and projectors.

mushkin.com

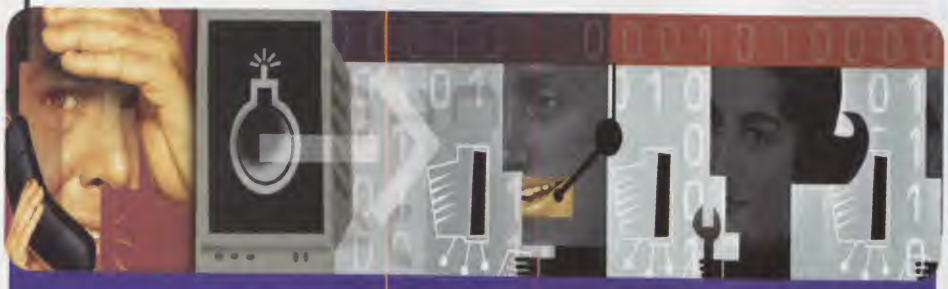
Mushkin Enhanced Memory Systems is a respected company that sells a wide range of RAM, from double-data-rate SDRAM to specialty modules. You'll also find memory for your digital camera or notebook. Don't forget to check out the deals in the Close Out Corner.

newegg.com

You won't have to shell out big bucks or scramble for hardware at **NewEgg.com**. Peck at the site's listings of new products and top sellers, then take a crack at the specials. Order carefully—the 15 percent restocking fee might make you squawk.

nxgen.com

Next Generation's Web site is densely packed with prebuilt computers and peripherals ranging from cables to graphics cards. The selection is huge, and the site provides full specs and plenty of details about each product.



Tech-Support Services

www.answerteam.com

Sykes AnswerTeam provides telephone and online tech support for more than 150 hardware and software products. You can opt for the $14.99 per-call rate, or choose from monthly or annual support services.

askdrtech.com

If you need technical hand-holding on a regular basis, try **Ask Dr. Tech.** For an annual fee of $89, you'll have access to 24/7 online and phone support for hardware and software. The $129 Business Plan adds online data backup and priority response time.

experts-exchange.com

Computer experts helping experts for free—that's the goal at **Experts Exchange.** The site is packed with knowledgeable answers about networking, programming, databases, and other advanced topics. Using an unusual barter system, you have to spend "question points" to get answers, so don't blow them all on simple problems.

pcmech.com

PC Mechanic doles out in-depth tutorials for savvy computer users, such as guides to building your own PC and unraveling the mysteries of the Windows Registry. Ask your tech-support questions in the busy discussion forums.

techguy.org

Tech Support Guy is an active, free support community. You can use the message boards to ask and answer questions about Windows, Unix, networking, business applications, and other PC topics.

techsupportalert.com

Tech Support Alert helps computer users locate online technical support. You'll find reviews of free and for-pay support sites, plus how-to guides for Windows users. The site is only updated sporadically, but it's still worth visiting.

tech24inc.com

Describe your computer problem at **Tech24's** site, and a certified technician will help you solve it, communicating via chat window or phone—any time, day or night. The tech expert can even take control of your PC to fix a problem. If you're satisfied, you pay a flat per-incident rate of $11.95.

SITE REVIEWS

1coolpc.com

A cool computer is a happy computer. **1CoolPC** specializes in fans, heat sinks, and other cooling devices for your CPU, graphics card, monitor, hard drive, and other components that tend to swelter.

Fry's Outpost.com

outpost.com

Fry's Outpost.com sells around 170,000 products—a full range of computer hardware, plus cameras, electronics, and innovative specialty products from partner companies.

palmgear.com

Users of handhelds will appreciate the extensive selection of free and commercial programs downloadable from **PalmGear.com.** You can buy PDA hardware and accessories, or sign up for an e-mailing list to receive information about new software, news, and user tips.

pccasegear.com

Trick out your computer at **PC Case Gear,** an unusual site for serious PC enthusiasts. You can pick up a window kit that will let you see inside your PC case. Couple that with a neon- or cathode-light kit to make your machine glow from the inside.

pcconnection.com

PC Connection offers bargains on a colossal variety of PC and Macintosh products. Smart Selectors ease the search process for those looking for turnkey systems, cameras, printers, monitors, or memory to fit specific guidelines.

www.pcliquidator.com

The getting's good at **PC Liquidator,** a site that offers clearance, refurbished, and overstocked hardware and software. The inventory is always changing and usually inexpensive. You can find many hardware choices for under $10—and software for 99 cents.

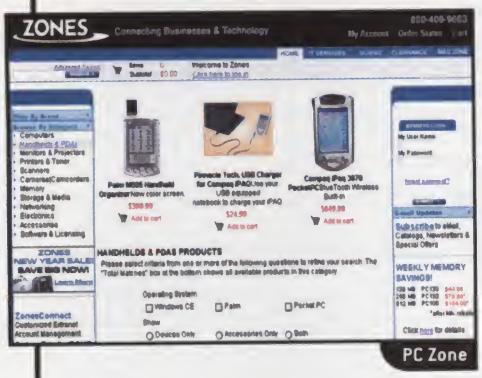
pcmall.com

Shoppers at **PC Mall** receive free lifetime technical support on the site's vast selection of computers, hardware, and software. The site's business-solutions forum offers corporate leasing and volume pricing. Apple-heads can find all their favorite Macintosh products at the **Mac Mall** sister site ***(www.macmall.com)***.

SITE REVIEWS

pcnation.com

You'll pledge allegiance to **PCNation** after seeing its catalog of 70,000 hardware, software, and networking products. The home page offers links to "best buys" and to products with special rebates.



pczone.com

PC Zone stocks an impressive selection of all things PC. You'll find links to a clearance area and other stores: **Mac Zone** and **Electronics Zone.** Printable rebate coupons can save you some cash.

www.pdaorder.com

PDAOrder sells personal digital assistants preloaded with the software you need. Bundles include programs for physicians, professionals, financial mavens, and college students. The site also offers reviews, feature articles, and how-to guides.

powernotebooks.com

Choose among Toshiba, Sager, and PowerPro portable computers at **PowerNotebooks.com.** If you already have a laptop, follow the Accessories Store link to quickly see a list of compatible add-ons.

www.sharbor.com

Safe Harbor specializes in digital video, animation, graphics, and multimedia tools. The selection includes video workstations, video-capture cards, and software for music and video professionals.

shopper.cnet.com

The **CNET Shopper** search engine takes the guesswork out of finding a deal on hardware, software, and accessories. The price-drop-alerts feature will show you products with significant recent price reductions. (CNET Networks is *Computer Shopper's* parent company.)

ssdonline.com

At **State Street Direct,** shoppers will discover a huge selection of computers and imaging products. Digital-camera shoppers will find many items of interest, including customized comparison charts.

staples.com

Yeah, they've got that. **Staples'** Web site offers a liberal price-matching policy on computer accessories, software, and office supplies. If you order similar items often, you can set up personalized shopping lists. The company can occasionally take its time shipping items out to you, though, so beware.

store.palm.com

Put a personal digital assistant in the palm of your hand. Here's where **Palm** sells its popular PDAs, plus software, accessories, and replacement parts. Reconditioned and discontinued models are available at a significant discount.

superwarehouse.com

SuperWarehouse.com stocks printers, monitors, hard drives, scanners, digital cameras, and laptops. The site's selection of printers is particularly large, and even includes plotters, dot matrix units, and other special-use printers.

suppliesusa.com

Feed your PC's ravenous appetite for media, ink, and other consumables at **Suppliesusa.com,** a distributor of brand-name printer and computer supplies. The catalog includes data-storage supplies, printer accessories, papers, and film.

surpluscomputers.com

Surplus Computers buys and sells corporate excess, overstock, and slightly obsolete PC hardware and software. The hardware choices include desktops, notebooks, and parts. The software selection includes operating systems and office suites.

tccomputers.com

In business since 1988, **TC Computers** sells fully configured systems and peripherals. The company's specialty is motherboards; buyers can have boards and processors preinstalled and tested without paying extra.

tcwo.com

Thompson's Computer Warehouse Outlet offers only a small selection of computer products. You may find only a dozen monitors or four CD-ROM drives, but the prices are fantastic.

techstore.com

TechStore.com offers hardware in dozens of categories and highlights monthly top sellers. The site also sells software, ranging from productivity suites to children's titles.

thenerds.net

With no misgivings about the tech-savvy of its company or customers, **TheNerds.net** offers 60,000 computer products, ranging from cables and connectors to graphics cards, at its fast and friendly site. The liberal 30-day return policy will protect you from getting stuck with the wrong product.

triocomputers.com

TrioComputers.com offers an impressive array of computer accessories and configure-your-own PCs. Read the site's 10-step tutorial on building your own PC to see if you're up to the challenge.

tristatecomputer.com

You'll have three times the fun at **Tri-State Camera and Computer.** The selection includes digital and analog cameras, computer peripherals, and home/office necessities, all with a money-back guarantee.

warehouse.com

The three "warehouses" under **MicroWarehouse's** roof sell PC hardware, Mac products, and datacom components. The site accepts corporate, educational, and government accounts, and offers *business* leases on several of its products.

Direct PC Vendors

adamant.com

Adamant Computers' desktop and notebook systems are backed by a three-year warranty and lifetime technical support. Systems are highly configurable, including your choice of AMD and Intel processors.

www.alienware.com

Alienware can build you a gamer's dream machine, high-performance workstation, or desktop video system. Cases are available in a rainbow of out-of-this-world colors.

buyabs.com

Exceptional customer support on custom-configured desktop and notebook systems is the goal at **ABS Computer Technologies.** All systems include a 30-day money-back guarantee, and some are available with Linux preinstalled.

buy-atlas.com

Atlas Micro offers desktop PCs built around Pentium, Celeron, and AMD processors. Buyers can use drop-down menus to create a custom configuration and are protected by a reasonable 30-day return policy.

compaq.com

Three arms of **Compaq Computer's** site offer computers for everyone. See the Compaq AtHome division ***(athome.compaq.com)*** for home and home-office systems, Direct-Plus ***(www.directplus.compaq.com)*** for business PCs and servers, or the Compaq Factory Outlet Superstore ***(www.compaqfactoryoutlet.com)*** for big bargains.

SITE REVIEWS

cyberpowerinc.com

Each **CyberPower** PC includes a three-year warranty and 30-day money-back guarantee. The site's service area includes downloadable drivers and lifetime tech support.

dell.com

Dell Computer's electronic storefront has always led the way in ease of use. The site is jam-packed with detailed information that makes it a snap to match a machine to your needs. Each system is configurable to the nth degree via drop-down menus, and you can get quick access to online support customized for your PC.

falcon-nw.com

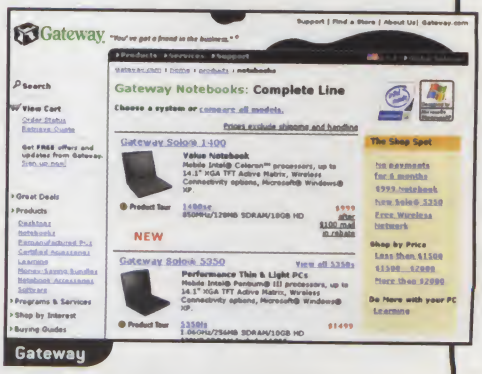
Got gaming on the brain? **Falcon Northwest** builds customized scream machines that will make gamers drool on their keyboards.

www.fujitsu-pc.com

Fujitsu's site focuses on portable computing, including notebook PCs and pen-based tablet computers. Each computer includes several warranty options. A trade-in program offers cash back on your old computer when you upgrade to certain models.

gateway.com

One of the biggest players in online computer sales, **Gateway** has an enormous and informative site that sells custom-built desktops and portables. Check out the Deal of the Week and remanufactured-PC center.



hpshopping.com

At this site, **Hewlett-Packard** sells its lines of desktop and notebook computers, handhelds, PDAs, digital cameras, scanners, and printers. The site makes repeat purchases simple for businesses and individuals.

ibm.com/products

ShopIBM sells business and home PCs, notebooks, servers, thin clients, networking equipment, and

Travel

cheaptickets.com

In business for more than 15 years, **Cheap Tickets** specializes in discount leisure travel. You can make hotel and car-rental reservations, or book a flight online. But you'll have to register before you can even search for ticket prices.

expedia.com

At **Expedia,** travelers can book flights, hotel rooms, cars, vacation packages, and cruises. The FareTracker tool keeps tabs on price changes on your favorite routes and sends e-mail alerts accordingly. Other special features include a currency converter and a frequent-traveler-program tracker.

hotwire.com

Traveling on a budget? **Hotwire** promises deep discounts on airline tickets—if you're flexible. Pick the dates of travel and see the price up front, but you won't know the airline or flight times until after you make the purchase. You can get a great deal, but you won't earn frequent-flyer miles.

lowestfare.com

Lowestfare.com is a full-service provider of business- and leisure-travel services. The site provides travel guides for 60 popular destinations, last-minute specials, and online-bookable cruises.

orbitz.com

The brainchild of five major airlines, **Orbitz** is a sprightly newcomer selling flight tickets, hotels, car rentals, and cruises. Airfare prices at Orbitz are often less expensive than you'll find at other travel sites—even with the $5 per-ticket service fee. And a flight search at Orbitz usually generates a more comprehensive list of choices than the competition.

travelocity.com

Travelocity.com is a popular travel hub that sells airline tickets, hotel and car reservations, cruises, and vacation packages. Check the Fare Watcher to keep abreast of changing airfares. The Business Travel Center offers helpful services for corporate travelers. You can book your trip on your PDA, then get news about your trip on your pager.

peripherals. The build-to-order option allows buyers to customize a new desktop.

microexpress.net

Micro Express offers built-to-order desktop and notebook computers featuring AMD and Intel processors. Each system includes a 30-day guarantee and a one- to four-year warranty. Business leases are available.

micronpc.com

One of the largest direct PC vendors, **MicronPC** sells computers to home-office users, larger businesses, government buyers, and buyers outside the United States. The Factory Outlet offers refurbished and discontinued systems.

nutrend.com

Custom-configure a home or business desktop PC at **NuTrend Computer Products.** The company stocks machines running your choice of Intel or AMD processors. Each system comes with a three-year warranty.

sagernotebook.com

Specializing in notebook computers, **Sager** offers a variety of options, from budget machines to speedy multimedia units. Service includes a 72-hour repair-turnaround guarantee and lifetime free tech support. Business leases are available.

shopprostar.com

Each computer in **ProStar Computer's** line of notebook PCs is backed by a 30-day money-back guarantee, a speedy-repair promise, and free tech support.

shoptoshiba.com

The Web home for **Toshiba's** stylish portables and desktop systems doesn't offer as many build-to-order options as some other sites, but it's loaded with plenty of extended-warranty and lease options.

sonystyle.com/vaio

SonyStyle is a sleek-looking site selling Sony's line of VAIO desktops and notebooks, plus digital cameras, displays, and storage devices.

store.apple.com

Apple Computer's well-designed site allows you to custom-configure any Macintosh computer, and offers a wide array of Mac-compatible software and accessories. Beware the one-click ordering feature—it may be a bit too convenient for impulse buyers!

voodoopc.com

Voodoo Computers specializes in high-end desktop PCs for gamers, video producers, graphics professionals, and just plain old folks who want a dream machine. The site includes active community forums for chatting with other Voodoo owners.

winbook.com

Focusing exclusively on portables, **WinBook Computer** offers machines with a 30-day money-back guarantee, a one-year warranty, and free technical support. Ironically, some of the site's best deals, the daily "Web specials," can only be ordered by phone.

<PC Resources

bizrate.com

BizRate.com shares customers' opinions of thousands of online sellers, including prices and on-time delivery stats. Click to the Special Offers section for rebates, discounts, and free-shipping deals at hundreds of merchants.

dcresource.com

The **Digital Camera Resource Page** is an unbiased, comprehensive source of information for digital-camera buyers and owners. Shoppers can glean necessary info from the FAQ page, buyer's guide, message boards, and reviews.

dealcatcher.com

With a tenacious ability to help you find a bargain, **DealCatcher.com** is a site worth checking before making any online purchase. You'll find coupon codes, one-day deals, discounts, rebates, and free-shipping offers for products and services from more than 400 Web merchants.

dealnews.com

Deal yourself in! Updated daily, **Dealnews** is a fantastic buyer's guide that reports on low-price specials in Web stores. Check out sister sites **Dealmac** for Mac-oriented gotta-haves and **Dealram** for memory deals.

gomez.com

Gómez.com offers ratings and customer reviews of e-commerce sites in 30 categories, ranging from Web-based computer stores to drugstores, apparel vendors to online brokers. Check the ratings on ease of use, customer confidence, and cost.

lowendpc.com

Stretch the lifespan of that old computer. **Low End PC** focuses on budget computing tips, including running free operating systems and piecing together an inexpensive PC from parts. Sister site **Low End Mac** will help keep your older Mac ticking, too.

SITE REVIEWS

motherboards.org

Motherboards.org is packed with motherboard news, reviews, specifications, and tips. Its comprehensive database of 1,400 products includes driver information, technical details, and overclocking hints.

nextag.com

NexTag is a sophisticated buying service that can help frugal shoppers find the lowest possible prices on computer equipment, electronics, books, music, and videos. Entering your ZIP code allows NexTag to calculate shipping and tax for accurate pricing.

pdastreet.com

No matter which PDA you use, there's something for you at **PDAStreet.com.** This multifaceted site delivers reviews, software downloads, user tips, and classified ads for Windows CE, Palm, Visor, Psion, and RIM users.

the-gadgeteer.com

The Gadgeteer, a site run by two self-proclaimed lovers of electronic gizmos, offers hundreds of reviews of PDAs and accessories including cases, styli, and hardware add-ons. Check out the active message boards for discussion forums about PDAs, handheld games, MP3 players, and more.

<Software Sites

buypcsoft.com

Buypcsoft.com offers software for Windows PCs in categories from business management to voice recognition. It's an efficient site with a good selection and high ratings among previous and current customers.

chumbo.com

Chumbo.com's selection of PC software includes games, business software, kids' programs, and operating systems. You'll also find software for your TV—that is, a good selection of DVD movies.

compuexpert.com

If you crave games for your Mac or PC, stop by **Compuexpert.com.** The categories include racing simulations, sports games, strategy games, and adventure titles. Colorful descriptions and screenshots are given for most titles.

download.cnet.com

CNET Download.com will help you find shareware and free software, linking to thousands of PC, Mac, Linux, and PDA titles. Well-written newsletters and down-to-earth reviews help you to locate the perfect program. (CNET Networks is *Computer Shopper's* parent company.)

dragon.ca

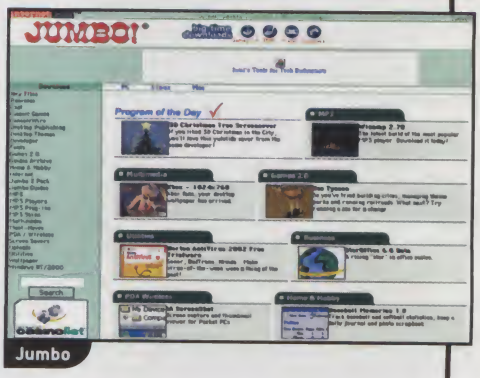
Next time you get an itchy trigger finger, visit **The Dragon's Den.** The site sells a gaggle of games for the PC and video-game consoles. Although the games are in Canada, prices are available in both U.S. and Canadian dollars, and shipping is reasonable.

ebgames.com

EBgames.com is a game-player's paradise, selling new and preowned titles for PCs and every game console under the sun. The site's EB1 service lets users with broadband Internet access rent PC games online.

jumbo.com

Jumbo is a fitting name for this monstrous file archive, featuring programs for sale, demos, shareware, and freeware. Jumbo Guides offer articles on backing up, sharing MP3s, and other computing topics.



Jumbo

tucows.com

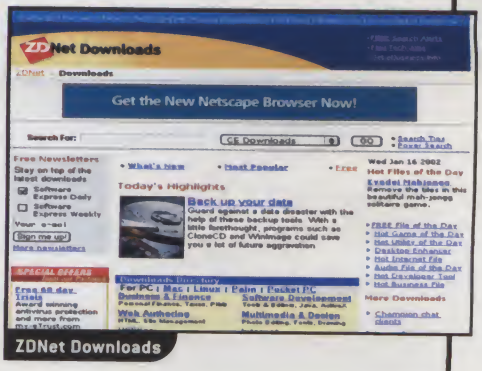
It's not just bovine bliss: **Tucows** is also an incredible archive of freeware and shareware. Plenty of local mirror sites keep downloads speedy. The category list and reviews make finding the software you seek a breeze.

wiredlounge.com

Here's a site hard-core gamers will want to plug in to. **WiredLounge.com** serves up oodles of recently released games. The site is packed with refreshingly honest reviews, plus plenty of screenshots to leave you wanting more.

zdnet.com/downloads

You'll need more bandwidth. Download shareware, freeware, and demos from **ZDNet Downloads.** The site offers daily software highlights and quick links to the week's most popular software. Every program is rated, reviewed, and checked for viruses, so your new software won't come with any unpleasant surprises. (ZDNet is owned by CNET Networks, *Computer Shopper's* parent company.) ▼



ZDNet Downloads

SITE REVIEWS

Online Banking

bankone.com

Among the nation's largest bank holding companies, **Bank One** presents a full complement of online-banking, bill-payment, and investment services. The company is the parent of WingspanBank, a popular Internet bank that has been folded into Bank One's operations.

bankpulse.com

With more than 2,000 online banks and credit unions out there, **BankPulse.com** can make choosing one a lot easier. Start by reading the guide to picking an online bank, then search for the "best-rated" institutions. You'll also find help on credit cards: Look for a card featuring zero interest, a high credit level, or special features for travelers.

citibank.com

Citibank has branches in nine states and offers most of its products, from simple checking accounts to stock trading and life insurance, online. The new "c2it" service lets you send money electronically.

everbank.com

Check out **Everbank** for free online-banking services complete with interest-bearing checking accounts (with a 3.01 APY) and a Web bill-pay feature. The company refunds other banks' ATM fees, up to $6 per month.

www.fdic.gov

The **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's** Web site will help you choose a stable place to put your money. You'll find a list of FDIC-insured banks, quarterly profiles of savings institutions, and tips for safe online banking.

firstib.com

Stash your cash in the Hoosier State. **The First Internet Bank of Indiana** is a highly rated, online-only financial institution. Services include personal and business accounts, IRAs, loans, and credit cards. Try the site's demo to get a taste of handling your finances online.

netbank.com

NetBank is the largest Internet-only financial institution, serving up myriad electronic-banking, investment, and loan services. Founded in 1996, this FDIC-insured institution delivers its services via your desktop PC, WAP phone, or PDA.